



## SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER WASHINGTON MADE IN WASHINGTON PLAN

Washington House Republican Caucus

### COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS:

#### 1. Put people back to work by reducing employer costs

- ✓ Reform the state's costly and complex workers' compensation system
- ✓ Protect unemployment insurance improvements passed into law during the 2009 session.

#### 2. Empower Washington employers to hire people by eliminating burdensome and costly regulations

- ✓ Require agencies to issue permit decisions within 90 days or the permit is automatically granted
- ✓ Require new state agency rules be reviewed by the Legislature before being adopted
- ✓ Put burden of proof in agency rule disputes on the agency instead of the citizens
- ✓ Give employers 48 hours to correct mistakes before an agency can issue a fine or penalty

#### 3. Increase affordable, renewable energy supply

- ✓ Recognize hydropower as a renewable resource
- ✓ Adopt policies that will lower energy costs for employers and families, and increase our energy supply to give job providers a competitive advantage
- ✓ Reduce red-tape and provide incentives for constructing new energy cogeneration facilities that provide clean, low-cost power.

#### 4. Affordable, accessible health insurance

- ✓ Create a flexible 'core benefit' plan for employees
- ✓ Allow consumers to choose health insurance plans across state lines
- ✓ Prevent lawsuit abuse
- ✓ Create an affordable 'core benefit' plan for young adults ages 19 to 34.



*"I have met with employers around the 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District and the theme that comes up repeatedly is state agency red tape is strangling businesses. Instead of state agencies helping a small farmer comply with overlapping and complex regulations to help him keep his doors open, the agencies shut him down killing all the jobs he creates."*

- Rep. Norma Smith, lead Republican on economic development issues

### HOUSE REPUBLICANS BELIEVE:

1. Washington's leaders should be exhausting all resources and making every effort to attract jobs to our state and retain the precious family-wage jobs we already have.
2. Empowered employers retain and create jobs.
3. New or higher taxes and fees hurt jobs and, ultimately, families. How can employers keep their doors open and people employed when they face a 7.6% increase in workers' compensation premiums and increased unemployment insurance taxes?
4. Washington must address the cost of doing business in the state if we want to keep Boeing and the thousands of employers who supply them here, along with our other important manufacturing industries and family wage jobs.
5. Washington's leaders must declare the state "open for business" and invite new and innovative employers to the state to bolster all sectors of employment and lift us out of the recession.